

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, claim 1 was canceled and replaced with new claim 5. Claim 6, which is similar in scope to original claim 4, was added. New claim 6 depends from new claim 5. Claim 2 was rewritten as an independent claim including all the limitations of claim 1 from which it depended. After the foregoing amendments, claims 2-6 are in the application for consideration.

The Official action set forth a rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official action indicated that it is unclear in claim 1 precisely what is constructed as an eccentric pin. Amended claim 2 and new claim 5, which includes the limitations of previously presented claim 1, particularly point out and distinctly claim the eccentric pin within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, by defining that the eccentric pin engages a bracket on the backside of the blade with the front end of the pitch support link, and the eccentric pin includes first and second parts that are eccentrically arranged relative to each other. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 2 was not rejected over prior art. This claim was rewritten as an independent claim including the limitations of claim 1 from which it depended.

For reasons set forth above, this claim complies with the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 3 and 4 also were not rejected over prior art and depend on claim 2. For these reasons, a formal allowance of claims 2-4 is respectfully requested.

The Official action set forth a prior art rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 4,893,683 of Horsch *et al.* (Horsch). The Official action referred to the blade pitch control structure of Horsch as including a pin (Fig. 14, item 112) that engages the front end of a pitch support link (110) with a bracket (140) on the back of the blade. The Official action commented that the pin is constructed as an eccentric pin, noting column 7, lines 31-49, of Horsch. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Horsch do not disclose or suggest the invention as defined in claims 5 and 6 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103 for at least the following reasons.

The teachings of Horsch propose an eccentric relationship between shaft 112 and slide block member 134. However, the shaft 112, itself, does not have an eccentric structure. Claim 5 defines, *inter alia*, that the eccentric pin includes first and second parts that are eccentrically arranged relative to each other. Since the teachings of Horsch propose a symmetrical pin 112, these teachings cannot contemplate or suggest this structure in claim 5. New claim 6 is similar in scope to original claim 4, which was not rejected over the

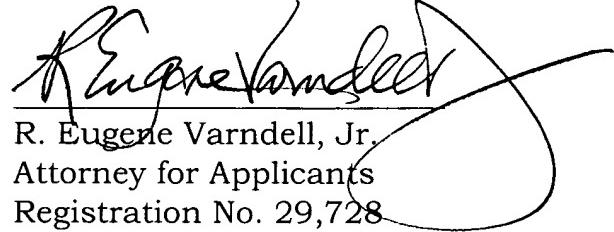
teachings of Horsch in the outstanding Office action, and further distinguishes the eccentric pin of applicant's invention from the teachings of Horsch.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Horsch do not disclose or suggest the invention as defined in claims 5 and 6 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, a formal allowance of claims 5 and 6, together with claims 2-4, is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed June 22, 2005. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC


R. Eugene Varndell, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,728

Atty. Case No. VX032577US
12040 South Lakes Drive
Suite 101
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 707-9110

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